

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the pending Office Action mailed April 4, 2007 designated "Final", all of the pending claims (claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-19, 37-48, and 57) were rejected. Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Alur (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,044) in view of Want (U.S. Patent No. 6,008,727). Claims 1-6, 8-11, 14, 16-19, 37-48, and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alur '044 in view of Want '727 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0057440 to Weiner et al. In this Amendment After Final, all of the previously presented claims are canceled (claims 1-57) and a new set of replacement claims (claims 58-65) are presented to recite that the claimed system and method are directed to a certificate issuing-verifying method and apparatus for issuing printed certificates such as residence cards and the like. It is submitted that the new claims, upon entry of this Amendment After Final, are patentable over the art of record. No new matter has been added.

Accompanying this Amendment After Final is a Request for Continued Examination. Entry of the amendment in the RCE case and action on the merits are requested.

The New Claims

All of the new claims recite a certificate issuing-verifying system that includes a print terminal, a certificate issuer system, and a verification terminal. The print terminal includes print means for printing certificate data on a print form, microchip reading means for reading microchip ID in a microchip attached to said print form, input means for inputting personal certification ID, and print terminal communication means for communications (see, e.g., page 6, line 6 through page 7, line 5). The certificate issuer system is in communication with the print terminal and has certificate issuer communication means for performing communication with said print terminal, certificate storage means for storing said certificate data, and issue management storage means for storing certificate issue management data (see, e.g., page 7, lines 6-22). The verification terminal is in communication with the certificate issuer system and has microchip reading means for reading microchip ID of a microchip attached to a print form on which certificate data is printed, display means for displaying received data, and verification terminal communication means for communications (see, e.g., page 14, line 22 through page 16,

line 8). These elements (print terminal, certificate issuer system, and verification terminal) are recited in the independent claims comprising claims 58, 61, and 64.

The certificates that can be issued in accordance with the claimed method and apparatus are printed at a local machine on paper forms that include an attached or embedded microchip (see page 2, lines 21-25 of the specification). The embedded microchip has a unique microchip ID associated with the printed form (page 5, lines 14-17). The verification terminal can read the microchip ID (page 11, lines 20-22) and provide it to the certificate issuer system (page 11, line 27-page 12, line 3). The certificate issuer can then read certificate data in association with the microchip ID (page 12, lines 3-5). The certificate data can be sent back to the verification terminal for display (page 15, lines 7-18).

In accordance with the print terminal, certificate issuer system, and verification terminal, operations are performed involving these components to perform data reading, storing, and transfer the personal certification ID, microchip ID, and certificate data. For example, claim 58 recites operations of:

sending said personal certification ID and said microchip ID to said certificate issuer system from said print terminal through said print terminal communication means;

reading said certificate data in association with said personal certification ID from said certificate storage means of said certificate issuer system;

storing said microchip ID and said certificate data to be issued in association with said issue management storage means of said certificate issuer system after said microchip ID is received at said certificate issuer system through said certificate issuer communication means;

sending said read certificate data through said certificate issuer communication means to said print terminal;

printing said certificate data on said print form having said microchip attached thereto, after said certificate data is received at said print terminal through said print terminal communication means, said microchip having said read microchip ID;

sending a microchip ID of a print form to said certificate issuer system from said verification terminal through said verification terminal communication means, after said microchip ID is read by said microchip reading means of said verification terminal;

reading certificate data in association with said received microchip ID at said certificate issuer system with reference to said issue management storage means and said certificate storage means, and sending said certificate data to said verification terminal through said certificate issuer communication means; and

displaying said certificate data on said display means, after said certificate data is received through said verification terminal communication means.

Similar operations and/or capabilities are recited in the other independent claims (61, 64). It is submitted that these operations cannot be performed by the proposed combination of references or by any combination of the references of record.

For example, Alur relates to a system that generates and issues license numbers, such as a fishing license (column 1, lines 44-46). Alur receives license parameters and generates a license number (col. 2, lines 8-10). The license number can later be authenticated (col. 1, lines 24-26). It is submitted that Alur cannot perform the operations of the claimed method and apparatus.

In accordance with the claimed invention, personal certification ID of a person can be read from the certificate issuer system and microchip ID of the print form can be associated with the certificate data and stored in the certificate issuer system, the certificate data can be printed on the printed form, thereby comprising an authorized document, and the

microchip ID from the print form can then be provided from the verification terminal to the certificate issuer system, which can then read the certificate data from storage and send the certificate data back to the verification terminal for display, verifying the certification operations performed. Alur cannot perform all the operations specified above involving the claimed certificate issuing system with a print terminal, certificate issuer system, and verification terminal for issuance of a certificate and verification of the issued document itself (i.e., the certificate with microchip ID).

It is submitted that Want does not make up for the deficiencies of Alur. Want relates to electronic tags that perform radio frequency broadcasting of a tag identification number. Want cannot provide or suggest the claimed print terminal, certificate issuer system, and verification terminal lacking from Alur, and cannot provide or suggest the claimed operations that are not performed by Alur.

It is submitted that Weiner does not make up for the deficiencies of Alur and Want. Weiner relates to documents with an embedded memory device that contains information relating to the information printed on the documents themselves (see Paragraph 0010 of the Weiner publication). In this way, Weiner explains that it is unnecessary to have digital and hard copies of documents stored in separate locations (see Paragraph 0019 of Weiner). As with Want, it is submitted that Weiner cannot provide or suggest the claimed print terminal, certificate issuer system, and verification terminal lacking from Alur, and cannot provide or suggest the claimed operations that are not performed by Alur.

It is submitted that none of the references of record describes the claimed method and apparatus directed to a certificate issuing system with a print terminal, certificate issuer, and verification terminal .

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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